Title: BIOABSORBABLE STENT AND IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE

Abstract: A stent assembly (10) is formed with a plurality of stent rings (12) which have sections (16, 18, 24) which are of a non-biodegradable material and struts and tie bars (20, 14) which are at least partially biodegradable. The stent ring (12) thus partially biodegrades in a patient over time. The structure is such that the apices (16, 18, 24) of the stent ring (12) are of a non-biodegradable material and thus able to behave as a conventional non-biodegradable stent, that is with the same flexibility and expansion force consistent with such stent rings. Parts (34, 44) of the stent ring (12) will degrade in time, thereby reducing the restoring force produced by the stent ring (12) and reducing the amount of foreign material retained within a patient's body. In one embodiment, the stent ring (12) will separate into individual components after a period.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

   1-23

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**International application No**

PCT/US2013/025034

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

INV. A61F2/82  A61F2/91

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**ADD.**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) and both national classification and IPC

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61F

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

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**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>US 6 663 664 B1 (PACETTI STEPHEN D [US]) 16 December 2003 (2003-12-16) column 14, line 32 - column 15, line 16; figure 13</td>
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<td>X,P</td>
<td>US 2012/219696 AI (PACETTI STEPHEN D [US]) 30 August 2012 (2012-08-30) paragraph [0091]</td>
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- **A** document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- **E** earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- **L** document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- **O** document relating to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- **P** document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

**Date of actual completion of the international search**

12 June 2013

**Date of mailing of the international search report**

16/09/2013

**Name and mailing address of the ISA**

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

**Authorized officer**

Serra i Verdaguer, J

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)
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</table>
This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-23
   A stent with struts having a continuous spring material

2. Claim: 24
   A stent with struts having apex ports being made of spring material